

Children's Newspaper

Every Tuesday—Threepence

FOUNDED BY ARTHUR MEE

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TREASURE IN A CAVE

Story of a Remarkable Find

THOUGH it is a true story it begins Once Upon a Time—perhaps as far back as the dawn of Christianity. Then it was that some ancient Hebrew scrolls, wrapped up and placed in earthenware pitchers, were hidden for safety in a cave in Eastern Palestine. There through the long centuries they lay, precious manuscripts of Holy Writ, their existence unknown, unsuspected—until a few months ago.

One day in the summer of 1947 some wandering Bedouins were toiling along in the heat and the dust, carrying goods from the Jordan Valley to Bethlehem. As they neared the north end of the Dead Sea the road mounted steeply, and when they reached the top high up on the cliffs, they stopped to eat and drink.

The Broken Jar

While they were resting one of the Arabs startled his companions by suddenly rising and hurrying towards a partially-collapsed cave close by, and when they saw him stoop and pick up a huge broken jar they joined him eagerly to see what was happening. Soon they, too, were picking up crushed jars, and growing excited, for tucked away inside were parcels wrapped in a kind of waxed linen!

Expecting the parcels to contain gold or silver, or even precious stones, their hands shook as they tore off the wrappings; but, to their intense disappointment, they found only coarse yellow parchments covered with strange writing. Disgusted, they would have thrown them all away had not one of them wisely remarked that what was worth hiding might be worth buying!

Now the story is continued in the Holy City of Jerusalem. On a Wednesday afternoon in February 1948, a telephone bell rang at the American School of Oriental Research in Jerusalem. Omar the cook answered it. The caller was Father Sowmy, the librarian at St Mary's Orthodox Convent in the Old City of Jerusalem, and he wished to speak to Dr Trever, the Director.

He spoke of the purchase of some scrolls in Ancient Hebrew, and requested help to identify them.

Dr Trever was rather sceptical of the expression "Ancient Hebrew," but hearing the romantic story of the Bedouins' discovery, arranged to see the manuscripts the following afternoon.

Precious Manuscripts

Promptly at 2.30 p.m. the next day, Father Sowmy arrived at the school with a small leather suitcase, and very soon Dr Trever had the thrill of knowing that in his hands he held manuscripts far older—possibly 800 years older—than the British Museum Codex Sinaiticus, written in the 9th century. Moreover, they included a scroll of the Book of Isaiah with a Hebrew text not

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VIKINGS SAIL AGAIN

For the first time in ten years the ancient Norse festival of Up-Helly-Aa has been held at Lerwick, capital of the Shetland Isles, and our picture shows "Vikings" in their longship. In the evening the vessel on a wheeled platform was drawn in procession to the harbour and ceremonially burned.

Descended from the Vikings who landed there a thousand years ago, the Shetlanders are still proud to celebrate this festival, which the Norsemen believed to be a means of ensuring fair winds for their ships and sunshine for their crops.

Trouble at Lonely Mine

AN elderly lion and two lionesses have been making a considerable nuisance of themselves in an out-of-the-way district of Southern Rhodesia called Lonely Mine; since last October they have killed 30 cattle.

Mr J. C. Tebbit, a Wankie Game Reserve Warden, went there to deal with them, but they are extremely cunning and have been keeping well out of his way.

As if wily lions were not enough to worry the farmers around Lonely Mine, a small herd of elephants has been pushing down their fences as well.

FLYING SHEPHERDS

IN the past the pilots of the RAF Coastal Command Station at Kinloss, Morayshire, known as the "flying shepherds of Kinloss," have rendered yeoman service to many sheep-farmers by dropping fodder to sheep that have been lost in the snow and by guiding farmers to their animals.

Often when an emergency call was made for their services the pilots had some difficulty in obtaining supplies of fodder at short notice, but this year stocks of baled hay at the station lie in readiness for emergency.

DOGS CALL HERE

DURING the last three years Benjamin Rapakgadi, a butcher's assistant from Yeoville, Johannesburg, has fed with scraps of meat every stray dog which has come begging at the shop door. In recognition of his humanity, Benjamin has been given a membership card of the SPCA. The SPCA have placed one of their drinking troughs at the butchery door, so that dogs have water with their meals.

BIRDS IN OPEN CAGES

Captives of Darkness

THIRTY tropical birds are living in cages without bars in the Zoological Gardens, Antwerp, during an unusual experiment being conducted by the director, Mr Walter Van den Bergh.

The cages are brilliantly lighted, but each has a fourth "wall" of darkness into which the richly-plumaged birds hesitate to fly. The birds cannot see the visitors who enter the darkened building to watch them flitting about happily in their "sunny" cages; yet only a beam of light separates them.

This experiment is based on the assumption that creatures which are not nocturnal will not voluntarily leave their haunts provided they have heat, light, and food. The cage frames are painted black to enhance the illusion of outer darkness.

Starlings from Africa, Chinese grackles, turtle-doves, a South American parakeet, and a scarlet and black myna are among the birds in these unique cages. Soon

after the experiment began, a white-crested jay from the Himalayas flew out into the darkness, but he has been the only bird to do so.

An English visitor to the Antwerp Zoo has reported that baby turtle-doves hatched in the lighted cages are more curious about the outside world than their parents; they have perched on the very rim of the cage, but not one has attempted to fly off.

Snakes in the same zoo are the subject of another experiment; they have been displayed with no visible barriers between them and visitors standing about three feet away. The snakes were placed on warm "islands" which were ringed by a frozen temperature zone which the heat-loving snakes showed no inclination to penetrate.

Mr Van den Bergh believes that it may be possible, as a result of prolonged experiments, to revolutionise methods of keeping birds and animals in captivity.

The Key to Conversation

A RETIRED business man cycling down Broad and Cheese Hill, at Thundersley, Essex, saw a queer-looking key in the roadway. On picking it up, he saw on one side the words "The National Telephone Co, Ltd Subscriber's Trunk Pass 2602," and on the other side, "5s Reward at Oxford Court, Cannon Street, London."

He posted the key to that address. But the National Telephone Co left Oxford Court 50 years ago, and the Post Office absorbed the Company 37 years ago; and so the letter containing the key finally reached the Con-

troller of Telephones, London Telecommunications Region. The Post Office paid the reward.

The key, which will be placed in the Post Office Museum, was used in the early days of the telephone service to enable certain subscribers to use call offices to make trunk calls over short distances free of charge.

The subscriber entered the call box and then put his key in a special slot in the box instead of inserting coins in the money slot. The turning of the key produced a "buzz" in the operator's receiver and she put the call through.

AERIAL AMBULANCE



A demonstration of aircraft being used to evacuate casualties took place at the RAF station at Brize Norton, Oxfordshire. Here we see a helicopter ready to take off with a stretcher patient on its side.

STATE OF ISRAEL

The future of Holy Land, whose peoples now find it very difficult to live peacefully together, is causing anxiety. The United Nations are striving to solve the Arab-Jew problem, and our Government have "recognised" the State of Israel.

Now, let us leave the statesmen to their task and try to see why this subject arouses such strong feelings. To our task we must bring a sense of time, for that is the essence of the problem.

First of all, we must remember that—to adapt an old French proverb—the more Palestine changes the more it is the same. It is like the nearby desert itself, changing but unchanged.

Palestine is a little larger than Belgium or Albania, a little smaller than Sardinia or Sicily. Long before the Bible was written Palestine was home to the Jews. But it has also become part of the Arab world of the Levant—that wide sweep of coastal lands from Greece to Egypt—and Jerusalem for many centuries has been a holy city to the Arabs as well as to the Christians and the Jews.

Arabs and Jews alike have brilliant histories as peoples, marked by long periods when (as it seemed to the rest of the world) they were striving to regain something.

Yearning For Home

The story of the Jews is well known. The Diaspora, or Dispersion, took them—or most of them—forth into many other lands. As civilisation spread and the farther they went afield the more they yearned for "home." To them that home was Palestine.

Eventually this yearning produced the Zionism we know today. It had begun, perhaps, with the Babylonian Exile 2500 years ago. By the 17th century the Jews were looking to England as a half-way house from which, one day, they should set forth in a national exodus to Jerusalem.

Around that time Sabbatai Zevi proclaimed himself the Messiah who would lead his people back to Zion. But it was not until 1896, in a pamphlet entitled *The Jewish State*, that Dr Theodor Herzl founded Zionism as we know it. His aim was to create a Jewish commonwealth in Palestine under the Turkish Sultan, who had held sway over the Levant for centuries.

Arab Hopes

Under that same line of Sultans the Arab peoples—outside as well as inside Palestine—languished. But not long before Zionism was founded, they, too, felt that they were a distinct people apart from the Turks.

Their inspiration lay towards setting up a federation of Arab States. In this must be Palestine, with the Holy City.

We now come to 1917, when these two aims converged. That was a dark year in the First World War. The Americans had not yet joined the Anglo-French Allies. So, to encourage Jewish opinion in the United States, the Allies held out the promise of a National Home for Jews in Palestine, hopeful that this would influence active American aid in their favour. Out of this crucible came the famous Balfour Declaration.

Meanwhile, the hopes of the Arabs towards their goal had been encouraged. They helped General Allenby wrest Palestine

from Turkish domination. And they expected much in return.

For 25 years the British ruled in Palestine under League of Nations mandate. At 9.43 a.m. (British Summer Time) on June 30, 1948, the Union flag was lowered at the port offices in Haifa and the last 600 of our troops left Palestine.

Britain had "laid down the mandate." Arabs and Jews began to fight each other. The outcome of this issue is now awaited by an anxious world.

For this is not just a question of Palestine. It is a question of the stability of what we know as the Middle-East.

We find it hard to regard Britain's gallant attempt to solve the problem a mere scratch on the tablets of Palestine's long history; but we may perhaps draw a useful lesson from it.

CN Overseas

LETTERS from overseas readers frequently tell the Editor how much the C N is valued as a link with Britain.

It is now possible to accept subscriptions for sending the C N to other lands; so, if you have a friend overseas, a regular weekly contact can be maintained for as little as 15s 2d a year. If desired, a special greetings card bearing your own name and address will be enclosed with the first copy.

PLEASE send your remittance, with full name and address of the friend to whom the C N is to be sent, to Subscription Dept., Children's Newspaper, Fleetway House, Farringdon Street, London, E C 4.

TREASURE IN THE CAVE

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known either in the original or translation.

At this time conditions in Jerusalem were steadily growing worse; sniping and firing were increasing with considerable danger to life and property. Therefore, in the weeks which followed the priest's visit, there was much to be done to safeguard these scrolls. Careful translating and laborious repairing of the badly worn and damaged sections had to be undertaken. But by Easter all was accomplished. Photographs of the manuscripts were in America; Father Sowmy had taken the scrolls to safety outside Palestine; and Dr Trever on his way to Beirut knew that he had played a part in the greatest literary discovery of modern times.

This remarkable find, of which a first survey has already been published in Jerusalem, is bound to shed new light on the Scriptures as well as on the ancient Hebrew language. Some idea of its importance can be gauged from this statement in an article in the Manchester Guardian by Meir Wallenstein, lecturer in medieval and modern Hebrew, Manchester University: "The new find supplies a most vital link which was hitherto missing in the long chain of development of the Hebrew language."

Echoes of an Arctic Journey

A BRAVE but humble Arctic pioneer who was also a Sunday School superintendent for forty years is to be commemorated in a London church. At St Swithun's Church, Hither Green, a "Maskell Memorial Fund" has been opened and will provide the building with electric light.

Mr Maskell, who died during the war, was a founder member of the church, but his Sunday School pupils knew him best for his exciting and thrilling stories of his Arctic adventures. He accompanied the Sir George Nares's North Pole Expedition in 1875-6, and was the only member of the crew who never had a day's illness throughout the journey. Of the first 2000 who volunteered for the trip only two passed the medical examination.

This is his own account of the great adventure: "We were loaded with supplies for three years but on a bad passage 100 fowls were drowned although 11 sheep survived. After 11 months we were frozen in. We went with a five-man sledge to a place called Distant Cape. Coming back we nearly all lost our lives. We were 142 days without the sun, the temperature going down to 76 below zero."

The James Watt Medal

THE James Watt International Medal has been awarded to Dr Frederick Ljungstrom of Sweden, for "outstanding contributions to the development of mechanical engineering."

The Gold medal was founded to commemorate the bicentenary of the birth in 1736 of James Watt, inventor of the steam engine. It is awarded every two years by the British Institute of Mechanical Engineers to an engineer of any country considered worthy of the highest honour.

Dr Ljungstrom is known chiefly for his preheater, and the steam turbine which he and his brother developed.

Test of Observation

THE Times has been correcting an error in the BBC's Round Britain Quiz programme when it was stated that the clock face on the device heading the leader page of The Times showed five minutes past six. This device appeared first on January 7, 1804, and in the History of The Times it is said of it:

"The clock, it should be noted, is at 6.6 a.m., which is the average time of normal publication. The minutes were important; the newsmen were always impatient. Uproarious complaints followed the most trifling delay."

MALAYA MARTYR

A FEW months ago the C N published an account by Allen Mitchell Blake of his Save the Children Fund School in Malaya for vagrant Chinese, Malay, and Tamil boys. Last month a memorial service to him was held in London. He had been treacherously murdered by bandits.

Blake met his attackers unarmed. He had been warned of Communist risings, but said: "They will never murder me. They know the good work we are doing for the younger generation." He was sadly wrong.

NEWS FROM EVERYWHERE

SENATORS AGAIN

The members of the Council of the Republic—the Second Chamber of the French Parliament—have decided that they shall be called Senators, though as a body they will not be termed a Senate.

A sound track for a film, *The Life of a Bachelor*, in production at Göttingen, Germany, is to be made in Esperanto.

Twenty more lads selected by the Big Brother Movement of Australia House, London, have sailed from these shores. Since July 1947 this movement has sent 189 of these Little Brothers to Australia, there to start life anew under the wing of a Big Brother, an influential Australian.

As a result of trade talks in London, more timber, pulp, and newsprint is expected from Finland.

Showing Them How

Greek librarians are to learn about British library methods from photographs of Southall libraries sent to the Minister of National Education in Greece.



Under the will of Sir Bernard Eckstein, the British Museum has received a collection of European pottery and rare porcelain. Our picture shows two Nymphenburg busts of children modelled by Franz Anton Bustelli about 1760.

Certain bombed church properties in Central London are to be turned into public gardens.

Middlesex Education Committee has recommended increased grants to parents of children who are awarded free places in public schools.

A Roman pottery kiln has been found on Lincoln racecourse.

Too Much Migration

A girl assistant in a shop at Swindon recently found a locust of the most destructive type, called *Pachytylus migratorius*. It is thought to have reached this country in a consignment of fruit or vegetables.

There was a record low death-rate in England and Wales last year—10.8 per 1000.

Princess Margaret has accepted the appointment of Commodore of the Sea Ranger section of the Girl Guides Association. She thus becomes leader of the 7000 Sea Rangers in Great Britain and Northern Ireland and many others throughout the Commonwealth and Empire.

Information about the University of London's certificate of proficiency for teachers in natural history can be obtained from the Director of Extra-Mural Studies, University of London, Imperial Institute Road, London, S W 7. The next practical course will be held at Flatford Mill Field Centre, July 24 to August 13.

INTERNATIONAL

The University College of Bangor, North Wales, is attended by students from 14 nations.

A new Oecumenical (universal) Patriarch—a high dignity in the Greek Orthodox Church—was recently enthroned in St George's Cathedral at Istanbul. The title, Oecumenical Patriarch, has come down from early in the sixth century, and the new patriarch, Athenagoras I, is the 268th.

The High Sheriff of Northumberland, Mr C. I. C. Bosanquet, has made a gift to the Youth Hostels Association of a 14th-century mansion—Rock Hall, near Alnwick.

A stonemason in Germany, who was convicted of stealing grave-stones was fined 100 gravestones.

THE SCOUT FAMILY

More than seventy parties of Scouts have made plans to go abroad this summer; and several Scouts' Associations in Britain are arranging International Camps to which they have invited Scouts from other countries. Thus is being put into practice the Fourth Scout Law: "A Scout is a friend to all and a brother to every other Scout, no matter to what country, class, or creed the other may belong."

Manchester Corporation propose to guarantee the Hallé Concert Society against loss this year up to £9000. The Education Committee is to provide £6000 for Hallé Orchestra concerts for young people.

New Zealand is sending a life-size toy lamb for Prince Charles.

A collection of 4091 Burmese birds has been presented to the Natural History Museum, South Kensington, by Mr J. C. Smith, of Llandogo, Monmouth.

Welcome Visitors

Of 500,000 visitors to Britain last year 100,000 were Americans. It is estimated that this year about 560,000 tourists will come, making our earnings from this source about £50,000,000.

The biggest consignment of manufacturing plant ever sent by the United States to Australia has arrived at Sydney. It is nearly 7000 tons of cement-making machinery needed for building new houses and for other national work.

The motor-cycle taken to Tristan da Cunha recently by the Revd C. P. Lawrence was the first one ever seen on this lonely island.

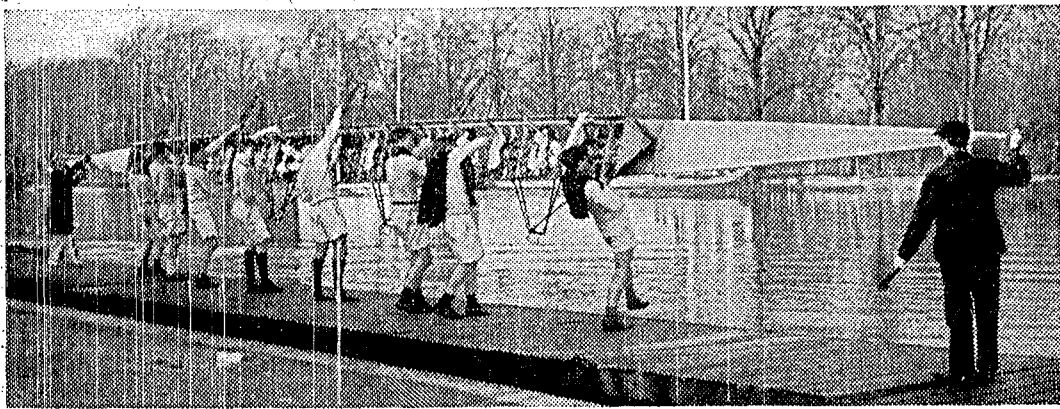
Butter and Cheese

For the first six months of New Zealand's present dairying season the amount of butter manufactured is 4000 tons more than last year, and the amount of cheese 5000 tons more.

A new Home for Children of Merchant Seamen was recently opened at Rhu in Dumbartonshire by the British Sailors' Society.

Pitaniko, a new religious film which has been privately shown in London, tells the story of a crippled African boy and his struggle to go to Cyrene School in Southern Rhodesia.

All 13 members of the senior troop of the 3rd Tolworth, Surrey, Scout group have qualified as King's Scouts—a county record.



Lighthouse Mystery

THE Flannan Lighthouse Tragedy, one of the unsolved mysteries of the sea, is recalled by the death of Archibald Lamont, at the age of 32, in the Island of Mull.

He was one of the crew of the Oban lighthouse steamer Hesperus. One night in the winter of 1901 it was reported that the Flannan light, 15 miles West of Lewis, was not showing. It was eleven days before the Hesperus was able to make a landing at the lighthouse, and then it was found that the three keepers had disappeared. There was no clue to account for the occurrence!

Lamont himself believed that one of the keepers had been swept into the sea by a huge wave, and that the other two lost their lives in trying to save him.

HIGHLAND CINEMA

MANY folk who live in the remote glens and hamlets of the far north of Scotland are seeing films for the first time. Hitherto, the children of crofters and gamekeepers and shepherds have had to be content with the old-fashioned magic lantern; now, sitting on fishing creels and boxes in barns, they can see British and American talkies.

Sponsored by the Highland and Islands Film Society, the films are taken into mountain fastnesses by eight mobile film units, four given by the Carnegie Trust and four by the Scottish Education Committee.

Things They Leave Behind

EVERY now and then we are reminded of the queer things people leave in trains by Railway Lost Property sales. One such held recently at Waterloo Station, London, had among its 10,000 items two archer's bows, an alpine axe, a student's microscope, a two-wheeled chair, and a wedding gown.

We can understand the archer's bows, for perhaps their owner was a bad marksman and had decided to give up archery, but it is hard indeed to imagine anyone leaving a wedding dress in the train and not attempting to recover it.

TOYS PLEASE

A PLAY CENTRE for children under eleven is to be opened by the Bede House Association in the blitzed area of Bermondsey, and there is a need for toys like skipping ropes, dolls, paint boxes, constructional sets, and so on. Any C.N. readers who would like to help this good cause should send toys they no longer need to Miss H. M. Pass, 351 Southwark Park Road, Bermondsey, S.E. 16.

Dark Blues

The Oxford crew, in training for next month's Boat Race, launch their craft on the Isis.

JUMPING CURRENCY

IN a county court not long ago a man sued a fellow villager for £24 or the balance of 2500 frogs, the price said to have been agreed for a motor-cycle and sidecar. It was said that the frogs, collected for medical research purposes, were valued at £1 per hundred.

The judge, in giving judgment for £15, or the equivalent of 1500 frogs, said that it was very inconvenient form of currency, "with great mobility, apt to disappear with even greater rapidity than pound notes."

Have You Told Your Friends About Our National HANDWRITING TEST?

Please show them page 9

From Iona to Paris

A RED granite stone taken from the Cathedral of Iona, the most ancient place of Christian worship in Scotland, has now arrived at the Scots Church in Paris, where it will be placed behind the Communion Table. The minister of the church will stand on the stone when he is dispensing the Sacrament, and so a link will be established with the immemorial past of Scottish Christianity.

Many centuries ago this granite stone was brought to Iona from the island of Mull.

HARD TO SWALLOW

JAMUNA, popular elephant at the Auckland Zoo, New Zealand, is always on the look-out for appetising titbits; but she gave her keepers an anxious time recently when she swallowed first a tennis ball and then a salt cellar which visitors had dropped in the elephant's stall.

Tristan Preferred

IT is a year since the Union of South Africa annexed Marion and Prince Edward Islands, and six islanders from Tristan da Cunha volunteered to stay at Marion. They went to assist with the consolidation of these territories for one year, owing to their vast experience of lonely living. These six men are now back at Cape Town and are sailing for Tristan shortly.

They are taking back many presents of all kinds, especially a portable gramophone with a stack of records, mostly featuring Swiss yodelling. They have had, they declare, enough of Marion and its storms.

First Rain For Ten Years

SWAKOPMUND, the tiny port on the coast of South-West Africa, recently had its first rain for more than ten years. Torrential floods were reported from the mountains near by.

Swakopmund stands at the northern tip of the Namib Desert, which stretches all the way down the coast to Port Nolloth in the south and extends for about 50 miles inland. The Atlantic Ocean here is influenced by the Polar waters of the Benguella current which prevents the concentration of moisture in the air. Nevertheless, it does rain there, though so seldom that the map-makers mark Swakopmund as "rainless."

On the eastern coast in the same latitude is Inhambane, which has a yearly rainfall of 50 inches.

THE GLORY OF GREAT YARMOUTH

BLITZED during the recent war, one of England's largest parish churches, St Nicholas, which has stood in the middle of Great Yarmouth for over eight centuries, is soon to be rebuilt.

Now Mr S. E. Dykes Bower, the architect, has begun the task of preparing plans for the reconstruction—a big undertaking for the church covers over 23,000 square feet.

Although he has nearly £17,000 in hand, the Vicar has stressed that at least £40,000 will be needed after the Commissioners have done their part.

The church was established by Herbert de Losinga, the Norman founder of Norwich Cathedral.

Painting to Music

FEW of us would choose to go to classes on Saturday mornings as well as every other weekday. But fifty Glasgow schoolboys and girls do; they turn up every Saturday morning regularly for their class in the Glasgow Art Galleries, and many more have to be refused as there is no room for them.

From about 9.30 until 11.15 in the morning boys and girls can be seen sitting at their desks, painting away to their hearts' content; the youngest is seven, the eldest 16.

But the amazing thing about this class is that the pupils paint to music; no vases of flowers and draped curtains for them. Their teacher, Miss Jean Irwin of the Education Department, plays a gramophone record of classical

music to them, and they paint whatever the music makes them think of.

Sometimes they hear elves and fairies in the music, sometimes witches and demons. It may suggest to them a summer day with daisies in the grass, galloping horses, or perhaps a wedding procession. Often they paint purely in the abstract, but it is all great fun.

The children are not necessarily the best painters in their class at school. They come to this voluntary class because they love to paint, and all that matters is that they enjoy it. And they do; nobody dreams of playing truant, and some of the pupils arrive before the class starts in the hope of getting a little more time at their painting.

A VOICE FROM THE PAST

AT a recent meeting of Australian and New Zealand scientists records were played of old songs sung in the forgotten language of the Tasmanian Aborigines, the last of whom died in 1876. Probably no one now will ever know the meaning of these plaintive songs, which were recorded fifty years ago by a half-caste woman who had lived among them, for the old cylinder containing an English translation was unfortunately broken some time ago.

Hardest of Rations

HARD tack, the highly nutritive but well-nigh unbreakable biscuits which form part of our sailors' emergency ration, may be banished for ever and replaced by soft bread.

Hard tack is seldom eaten as such in the Navy nowadays, except under orders; but it has saved many shipwrecked men from starvation. Wherever possible the biscuits are soaked overnight in water and emerge thrice their size. Fried, they make a palatable meal.

With the development of bakeries in even the smallest craft, hard tack may soon be a thing of the past, though there are some sailors who would recommend its continued use—for building bridges. The Admiralty are also experimenting with soft tinned bread to displace it.

STAMP NEWS

THE Union of Newfoundland with Canada is to be commemorated with a new issue of stamps.

GHADAMES, a French colony in North Africa, is soon to have its own stamps. Up to now the stamps of Tunisia have been used.

Two of the latest stamps issued in the Saar bear a surcharge which will be used to rebuild damaged youth hostels.

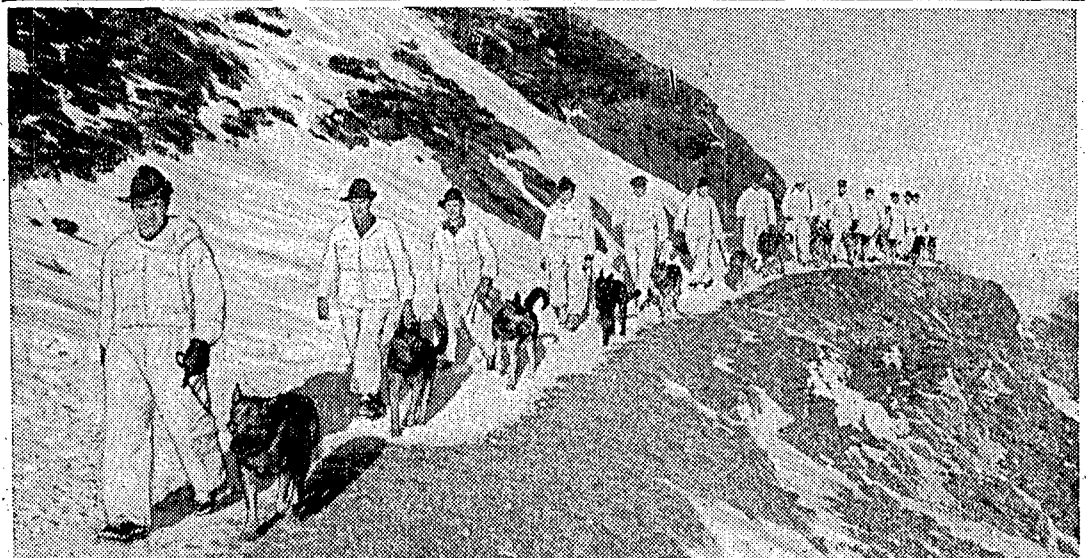
THE first anniversary of Burmese Independence is commemorated by a new set. The stamps bear the words "Union of Burma."

A NEW German stamp issued in the British zone carries a surcharge to help to buy food, clothing, and coal for the people of Berlin.

ADMIRAL COLUMBUS

A YOUNG man who claims to be the last descendant of Christopher Columbus is soon to be married. He is 24-year-old Christopher Columbus de Cavajal and Moaroto.

Although he holds but the rank of midshipman in the Spanish Navy, he has ordered an admiral's uniform for the wedding. He can do this because Christopher Columbus was made an honorary admiral in the Spanish Navy, and the title is granted to all his direct descendants.



Training Avalanche Dogs in the Alps

Dogs owned by the Swiss army, police, and customs authorities undergo annual training in rescuing the victims of avalanches in the Alps. When fully-trained these dogs, most of them Alsatian wolfhounds, can locate a casualty under six feet of snow.

IN YOU GO!



Peter, a King Penguin at the London Zoo, is a born diver and swimmer, but does not always feel in the mood; so a keeper applies a little gentle persuasion.

C N ZOO CORRESPONDENT WRITES ABOUT . . .

A Hundred Sea-Horses Crossing the Channel

SEVERAL interesting exhibits have reached the London Zoo aquarium lately, including half-a-dozen starfish, 100 sea-horses—those quaint fish which resemble the knights of the chessboard—and, last but not least, an octopus.

The starfish, a giant variety each measuring a foot across the five arms, were sent up from Plymouth. All had been found by a fisherman on some rocks near the Eddystone lighthouse.

Not for many years has the Zoo had examples of these "giant" starfish. But now that they are there it is hoped always to have some on exhibition. For

water, but despite this there were many casualties," Mr H. Vinall, the aquarium curator, told me. "The position became so serious that the sea-water had to be completely changed in mid-Channel. However, 100 survived, and these are now settling down well."

The sea-horses are worth looking at, for among them are three which behave so oddly that they have earned for themselves the title of The Good Companions. They stick together almost as if they were "Siamese triplets." One swims bolt upright while the other two anchor themselves to him by their tails.

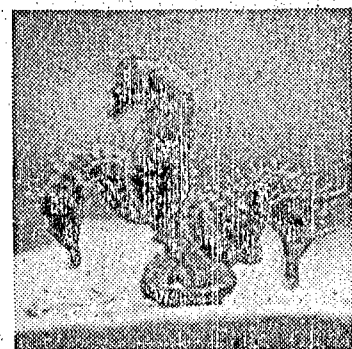
Lastly there is the octopus, now drawing big crowds, although this is commonly the Zoo's "slack season."

Curiosity, they say, killed the cat. The same attribute certainly caught this monster of the deep. Measuring three feet across the tentacles, it belongs to a type found normally only in sub-tropical waters; but, presumably carried northwards by drifting currents, it found itself at last close inshore off Whitstable. There, discovering a crab-pot, the monster ventured inside to see what could be "lifted," but found itself "lifted" instead—on to a fisherman's boat!

On finding what he had caught, the fisherman placed his captive into the nearest available receptacle, which chanced to be an old paint tin, and in this makeshift "travelling tank" the octopus came to Town.

The monster's food-bill is no small item, for it is taking lobsters, sent up regularly from the South Coast; and the ferocity with which it captures and eats these victims is providing a real thrill for every visitor who happens to come along at its meal-time.

C. H.



past experience has shown that these weird creatures have an unusual way of multiplying. From time to time one of them parts with an arm. This travels around the tank on its own. Eventually, it anchors itself to a rock and in time becomes another starfish complete with its full complement of arms!

The sea-horse consignment has come from Archachon, on the Bay of Biscay, and normally, because they are such delicate creatures, they are taken by air, first to Paris, then to London. This time, owing to bad weather, the consignment could not be flown across the Channel. So Keeper H. Ward of the aquarium staff was sent to the French capital to bring them over by sea.

"Special pumps were installed to ensure adequate aeration of the

THE HUT MAN TAKES US FOR A WALK THROUGH . . .

The Countryside in February

ASTRONOMERS tell us that spring begins on March 20, at the time called the Vernal Equinox, when the sun crosses the Equator and day and night are of equal length. If we go by the little signs of the wayside and woodland, however, we find that spring has returned to the countryside in February. Rocks are clamouring around tree-top nests which withstood the winter's gales, buds are swelling on trees and hedges, and on sheltered banks young blades of grass are pushing upwards between fresh green primrose leaves. Ever since last autumn Nature has been preparing for spring, and it is in February that the first definite results of that preparation begin to appear.

THERE is a pleasant old story that St Valentine's Day, February 14, is the mating time of the birds. Like many old beliefs, it is not always true, for feathered courtship is regulated by weather, and not by date. If the month is mild, however, we shall see many signs of pairing on or around St Valentine's Day. Companies of magpies gather on trees or open hillsides, chattering and showing off their handsome feathers; larks chase each other through the long meadow grass, sparrows twitter and flutter on roofs and haystacks at the farm, and the cock partridge challenges rivals in a voice like the creaking of a rusty hinge.

Now, while our own birds are beginning to think of nursery building, the visitors who have spent the winter months with us prepare to leave for their homes in more northerly countries. Flocks of fieldfares and redwings, our two visiting thrushes, linger in the fields till April or even May, so we have time to watch them and identify them from their British cousins, the missel-thrush and song-thrush. We shall find that all four have beautifully speckled breasts, like the well-known song-thrush of our gardens and parks.

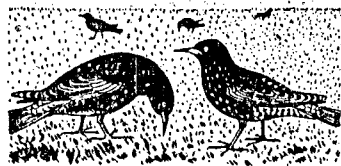
Of our two visitors the fieldfare is the larger, a powerful grey-headed, brown-backed bird, resembling, though smaller than,



our missel-thrush. The little redwing, smallest of the four cousins, might be mistaken for our song-thrush, but when seen at close quarters there are two clear marks by which it can be told—a pale, almost white stripe at the eye, and the rich reddish tinge on the sides which gives it its name.

STARLINGS are still "keeping company," and it is amusing to watch these restless birds when a flock is feeding in a grass field. Here and there they run, parting

the blades with their bills and peering down among the roots in their search for insects and other food. When cows are in the field the flock separates, and small parties of excited and de-



lighted birds gather round each grazing nose; for why trouble to disentangle grass blades when animated mowing machines are at work? And in the evenings what wonderful aerial displays are to be seen when "starling legions wheel apace"! Thousands and thousands of flying birds wheel and turn, fan out and come together again, diving to dash past on whirring wings with the rushing sound of surf on shingle. Have they a leader? Is there a word of command which guides the swiftly-drilling host? We do not know.

IN February, when weather is rough, it is worth while lingering by those old stone walls which straggle mile after mile across hillsides and moors. In Scotland they are called "dry-stane dykes," for no mortar was used in their building, and the little clefts and crannies between,



the ancient stones make sheltered passage-ways for many small travellers. Stoat and weasel slip in and out between the boulders, their slim bodies well fitted for traversing such narrow corridors; and if we cannot always distinguish them by size we shall have no difficulty in recognising the larger stoat by the black hairs at the tip of his tail. Hunters both, the stoat and weasel know that rabbits often shelter in the larger "caves" between the stones, and that field-mice and voles make their burrows in the bank at the dyke foot.

The little wren is another lover of these old walls, and her tiny, mouse-like form is often to be seen popping in and out between the stones, sometimes churring as she goes, sometimes singing her lusty song from an upper lichen-covered boulder. On blustery days it is pleasant to shelter in the lee of an old hillside wall, but when our shelter is shared by some small creature of the countryside it is fascinating.

AND what else may we see during a country walk in February? Frogs and toads are still hidden away in winter bedrooms, but one or two "early risers" may be discovered struggling through long grass or clambering up the hedgerow bank, heading for the pond.

In sheltered corners, too, at the roots of trees, under loose bark on fallen trunks and in clefts of rocks and stony mounds,

we may discover the curious cocoons of butterflies and moths. Looking like little oval bundles of matted silky wool, they were spun by the caterpillars of last summer and autumn; in each cocoon rests that strange-looking form which we call the chrysalis or pupa. Throughout the winter they have lain in almost death-like sleep, but now, if we carry the cocoons home and place them on sifted moss in an airy box, we shall be in good time to watch one of the most wonderful sights of Nature—the emerging of the perfect butterfly or moth.

ALL our butterflies and moths do not spend the winter in the chrysalis stage. Clinging to our window curtains we may find one of our prettiest and commonest butterflies—the small tortoiseshell. It has spent the cold months in our home, but with the first settled warmth of spring the sleeper awakens and flutters off in search of young sprouting nettles, for it is on the underside of the nettle's hairy, armed leaves that this attractive little butterfly lay its eggs.

Peggy Pigeon and Cleaner Crow

STORIES of a pigeon with two wooden legs and a crow that insists on sweeping a housewife's chimney come to us in the news from Scotland this week.

The pigeon had both legs severed when it flew into overhead wires and fell outside the door of a Dundee joiner's workshop. The bird was well cared for, and when its "stumps" were healed a joiner fashioned a pair of lifelike legs and fitted them.

After a while the pigeon learned to walk, then to take off the ground and fly. Landing was difficult, but the bird soon overcame that. For a year the workmen treated it as a pet as it perched in the rafters of the workshop. Then, one day, it flew through the open door and disappeared.

The crow story comes from Ayrshire. The bird flew down the chimney carrying in its wake a lot of soot. The good housewife gently evicted the bird and spent all that day and part of the next cleaning her soot-bespattered kitchen. She had just finished her chores when the crow appeared again—yes, down the chimney, bringing more soot! Now the housewife hopes she has seen the last of her winged chimney sweep.

Python on the Pylon

SHORTLY after sundown the other evening the town of Fort Victoria in Southern Rhodesia had a violent storm during which there was a complete black-out. It was thought that lightning had struck one of the power lines, so people were obliged to go to bed by candle-light.

Next morning a working party set out to locate the damage. Eventually they found a six-foot python at the top of a power pylon eight miles from the town. It had, apparently, climbed to the summit in an effort to find a comfortable place to sleep! But in doing so it short-circuited the power lines, and caused the entire system to fail.

Make Sure of
NEXT WEEK'S C N
Place Your Order Now

A Cradle For Ocean Giants

WHEN THE QUEENS COME ASHORE

THE pictures on this page show the largest dry-dock in the world, the King George V Graving Dock at Southampton.

WHEN ships like the Queen Mary and Queen Elizabeth are to receive treatment in the graving dock, the engineers' first task is accurately to place keel and bilge blocks in the empty dock to hold the liner in position.

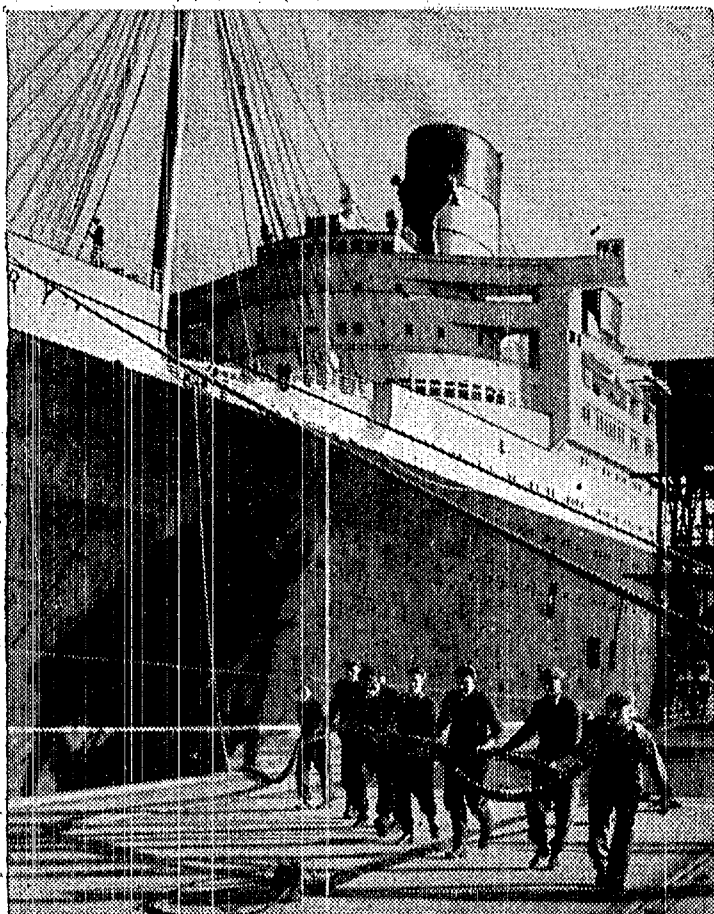
NEXT the dock is filled with water, and the operation of getting the ship inside begins. She is nosed into the correct line of approach by tugs and then she hauls herself in by means of ropes from her winches to the dock-sides.

WHEN she has entered, the 1,800-ton dock-gate is closed and the water drained from the dock. This takes four hours,

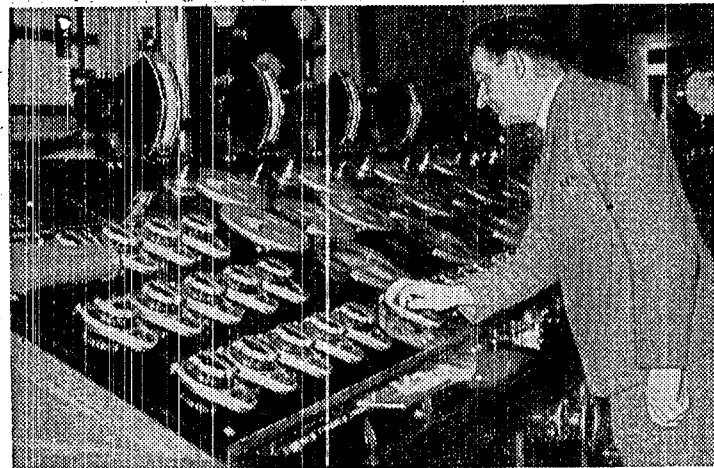
and one man controls the giant pumps that suck out the 58 million gallons of water. The liner is left dry, if not very high, for under part of the hull there is a clearance of only four feet six inches, which is enough,

however, to enable workmen to get underneath.

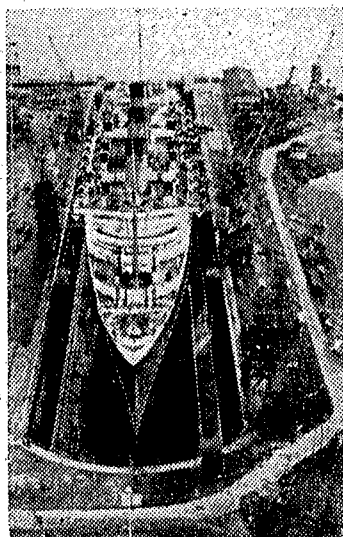
SCAFFOLDING is erected against her sides so that workmen can get at other parts which are under water when she is afloat.



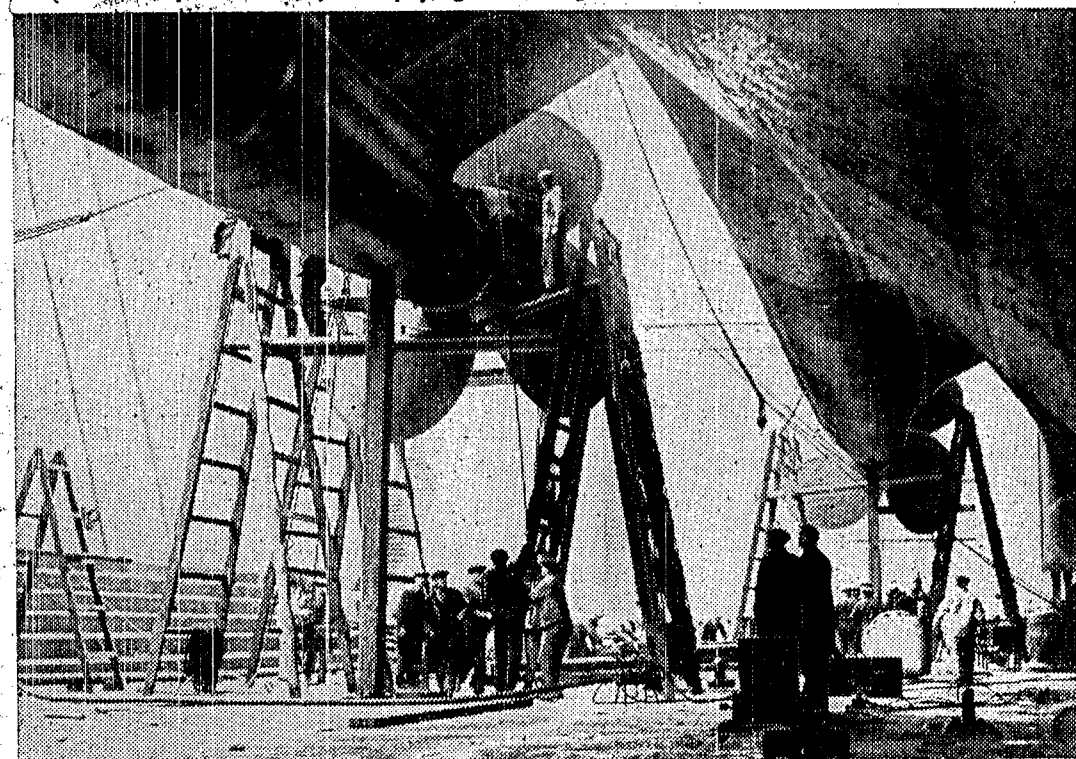
Escort for a lady—Eight men carry one of the Queen Mary's mooring ropes as the great ship moves majestically into the graving dock



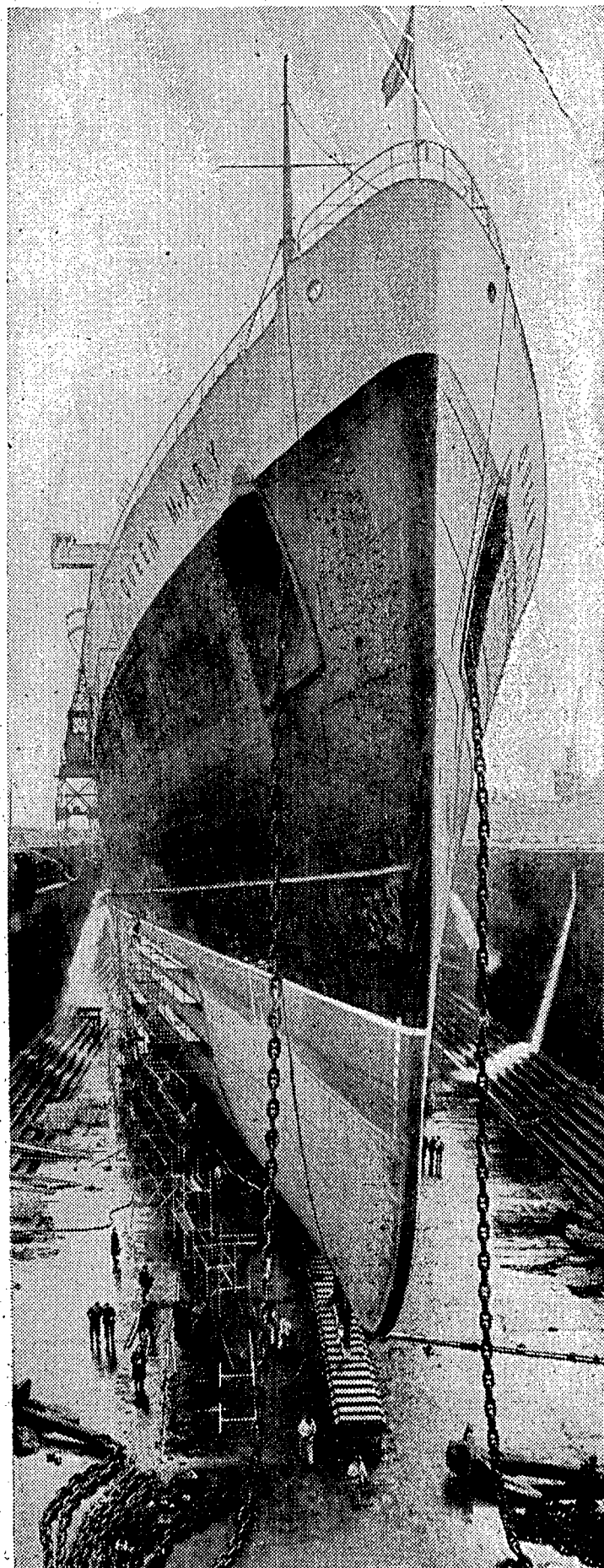
Controller of the valves for emptying and filling the dock



An air view of Southampton's big graving dock

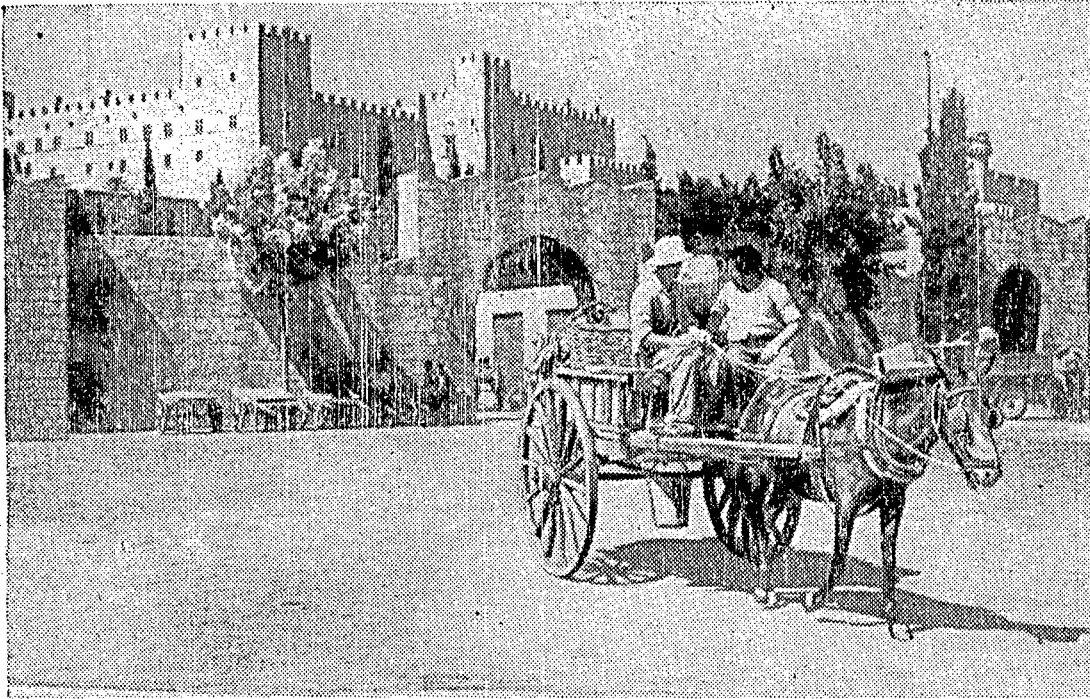


At work on the Queen Mary's starboard propellers



An ocean giant out of her element

Rhodes Comes Back Into History



The Chapter House of the Knights of St John in the town of Rhodes

A LITTLE island with a long and storied history, Rhodes is today the scene of the peace conference between the Jews and Egyptians to end their hostilities in Palestine. The delegates have been meeting in the town of Rhodes, capital of the island, and the negotiations have been presided over by Dr Ralph Bunche, the United Nations Acting Mediator for Palestine.

Rhodes, which lies about ten miles south of the Turkish coast, is about 45 miles long and 22 at its greatest width. Its people were rich, powerful, and cultured in the days of the ancient Greeks. It was a Rhodian sculptor,

Chares, who designed the famous Colossus of Rhodes, one of the Seven Wonders of the World. This was a gigantic bronze statue of Helios, the sun-god, which was 105 feet high and stood looking out to sea at the harbour of Rhodes. But the huge figure only stood there for 56 years; it was thrown down by an earthquake in 224 B.C. For centuries its broken pieces caused visitors to marvel, until in A.D. 656 the Saracens, who had captured Rhodes, sold the great fragments of bronze to a dealer, who had to use 900 camels to carry them away.

Other wonders of ancient Rhodes are the famous pieces of

statuary—the Death of Laocoön and his Sons, the work of three Rhodian artists of the first century B.C., and the Farnese Bull.

The town of Rhodes today is girt with massive medieval fortifications and other magnificent buildings erected by the Knights of St John, who captured the island in 1309. They were attacked there by the Turks and were forced to evacuate their island-fortress in 1522. Afterwards, the Knights established themselves in Malta.

Rhodes was taken from the Turks by the Italians in 1912, but in 1946 Italy handed it to Greece, its people's ancient homeland.

Was Pitt Wrongly Reported?

THE reports of newspaper correspondents at the beginning of last century were far from accurate, writes Professor Arthur Aspinall, in the latest issue of History. He takes as his example the famous reply which Pitt made shortly after Trafalgar on being toasted as "the Saviour of Europe" at the Lord Mayor of London's banquet. According to Pitt's biographer, Stanhope, the celebrated passage runs:

I return you many thanks for the honour you have done me; but England is not to be saved by any single man. England has saved herself by her exertions, and will, as I trust, save Europe by her example.

As it stands this passage has been often quoted during the last hundred years of our history, and so it comes as something of a shock when Professor Aspinall points out that no two English newspapers of the day agree in their version of Pitt's speech, and one or two give reports which differ very considerably from the biographer's noble rendering.

What did Pitt say on this occasion? We shall probably never know. Yet it would be foolish to blame the poor reporters as they, unlike their successors today, had not the advantage of shorthand. After all, we have a fine thought finely expressed, and that is all that matters.

CHURCH HELPS YOUNG ARTISTS

IN the past centuries the Church in many countries fostered the work of artists, sculptors, and architects. The Church of Scotland has taken a hint from the past, for its Art Centre in Edinburgh has offered to exhibit without cost the work of unknown artists which reaches a reasonable standard. Eventually it is hoped to form a Church of Scotland crafts guild.

Already the Art Centre has started a youth club whose members meet to paint, draw, and study craftsmanship.

WORKERS' PARADE



A fisherman at Folkestone preparing his nets.

WHEN I GROW RICH

WHEN will you pay me? say the bells of Old Bailey.
When I grow rich, say the bells of Shoreditch.

But they are not saying it today. Wartime bombs caused the steeple of St Leonard's Church, Shoreditch, London, to lean slightly, and this and other damage must be repaired at a cost of £3300 before the 12 bells can again ring out their old song. An appeal for £2000 is now being made by the Church Restoration Fund Committee.

St Leonard's is a Shakespearean church, for within its bounds lie some of the great playwright's associates, the most famous of this silent company being Richard Burbage, the first great Shakespearean actor. Not far away is the site of London's first theatre, where Shakespeare himself acted and where before turbulent and riotous audiences his deathless works were presented under an open sky.

On the north wall of the church is a grey marble tablet, placed there in 1913 to commemorate these first Shakespearean actors who were buried in the old church.

The present church was built about 200 years ago. Let us hope that the money is soon found to restore the steeple of this shrine of English tradition, so that the bells—six of which date from 1739—may repeat their old rhyme.

The Editor's Table

ALL FOR EACH

PRESIDENT TRUMAN has declared that "only by helping the least fortunate of its members to help themselves can the human family achieve a decent and satisfying life that is the right of all people." That is a re-statement of a policy which the human family in its finest hours has always tried to pursue.

In times of great distress, such as in famine or flood, the separated members of the family readily leap to the aid of those in need. In every land there is a deep reservoir of kindness and human sympathy to be drawn on in moments of emergency. The human heart, in spite of familiarity with awful suffering, can always respond to the call of those who are in pain and urgent need.

WHAT is needed in the world, however, is a more regular habit of concern for the welfare of other sections of the human family. America has led the way in her Marshall Aid Plan, thus translating into plain and practical affairs the ideals which President Truman holds up as a guide to all the nations. Here is a noble example of a great people offering its wealth for the use of others.

From experience of this vast sharing plan the human family may learn its lesson of "each for all and all for each." In material resources, scientific knowledge, technical equipment, and expert planning there is so much that can be done for the benefit of all, as we have seen so amply demonstrated during the stress and turmoil of war.

BUT a similar concerted effort is needed in times of peace. Our unity must not be in words alone, but in deeds. The family spirit must be displayed not only in times of crisis but continually in everyday affairs. The world is endowed with all the natural equipment necessary to make it a fair and lovely place to dwell in. But much of "man's larger hope" rests upon how we order those resources and share them with one another.

YEARLY ROUND

THE crocus, while the days are dark,
Unfolds its saffron sheen;
At April's touch the crudest bark
Discovers gems of green.

Then sleep the seasons, full of night,
While slowly swells the pod
And rounds the peach, and in the night
The mushroom bursts the sod.

The winter falls; the frozen rut
Is bound with silver bars;
The snowdrift heaps against the hut,
And night is pierced with stars.

Coventry Patmore

GRATITUDE TRAIN

LAST year America sent to France a Friendship Train loaded with gifts. Some employees of the French National Railways started the idea of a Gratitude Train, and all France took up the scheme.

Now 49 loaded railway cars have sailed on the freighter Magellan, which had Merci America painted in big letters on both sides of the hull.

The 250 tons of gifts are to be distributed among the 48 States, and the District of Columbia. The gifts include silverware, glassware, paintings, leather goods, lace, tapestry, and other examples of French art and craft, old and new.

Even the railway cars are a gift and it is expected that they will be given to veterans' organisations by the various State Governors.

This gift is another token of the great friendship which has long existed between the two great Republics.

Round the World on a Free Ticket

A JOURNEY round the world on a library ticket is the happy idea of the children's librarian at El Paso on the borders of the United States and Mexico. During holiday time all library readers receive a ticket listing twelve groups of books chosen to represent all parts of the world, and readers promise to read one each week.

Children meet during the holidays to talk over the books, and the Mayor presents certificates to those who show the most knowledge. During school term the enterprising librarians of El Paso keep in touch with their readers by a series of radio story programmes which are relayed to the schools.

It is an excellent idea, and a reminder in these days of restricted travel that we all can journey afar in books—in Keats's "realms of gold."

Under the E



PETER PUCK
WANTS TO KNOW
If M.P.'s have Party
Manners

SPINNING should be taught in schools. To top girls.

DANCING in Britain is more conservative than it used to be. We want some new party dances.

A MAN says he is tired of hearing bells on the radio. Wishes they would ring the changes.

SHORT people are often shy of having tall friends. Nevertheless they look up to them.

A SPECIAL train was reserved for an Italian tenor. Something to make a song about.

Here in a Strange Land

SIR GEORGE SCHUSTER has reminded the nation of the ten thousand students from Africa, India, Pakistan, China, and other countries who are now students at British universities and colleges. They are often lonely and homesick, and in order to help them the East and West Friendship Council (Annadale, North End Road, Golder's Green, NW 11) has all kinds of ways of introducing them to British friends.

These young men and women are representative of the flower of their country's youth, and the impressions they get of Britain now will not only last for ever in their lives; they will have incalculable influence. A friendly word, and a friendly home will make all the difference.

Students are often lonely persons, immersed in books and lectures, living in lodgings. To make them feel at home in Britain is one of the jobs the East and West Friendship Council have set their hands to, and all C.N. readers will wish it well.

A MINISTER OF FINE ARTS!

THE time has come when we should have a Minister of Fine Arts, recently said Captain Bullock in the House of Commons. Such a Minister, he continued, would be responsible for all the money spent by the Arts Council and generally control the fine arts. He should be outside politics.

This is an idea which should not be allowed to drop. The development of our artistic life is something which vitally concerns the citizens of the future.

Dazzling prospects of a future Britain would be opened up by the appointment of a Minister who would foster everything we understand by Art. Under such leadership our country might become a world centre for men and women who create or study things of beauty.

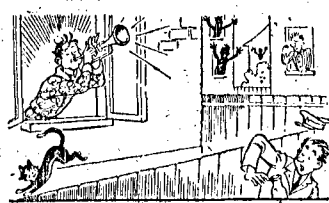
Editor's Table

SOME people cannot touch their noses with their eyes closed. Perhaps they could with their fingers.

AN Irishman is always ready for a scrap. But prefers a bit more if he can get it.

SCRATCH an Englishman and you find a Cavalier or a Roundhead, declares a writer. But be careful he doesn't scratch back.

THE eating-out habit is growing. Mothers say their children eat them out of hearth and home.



A MAN always starts the day with a solo on the cornet. Gives the neighbours a start too.

THINGS SAID

THE fundamental crisis in the world today is a cultural crisis, and there should be a real collaboration between Unesco and the religions of the world.
Bishop of Chichester

WHAT I want is a practical organism in Europe in which we shall cease to be English and French, cease to be English and Italian, cease to be English and Belgian, but will be European.
Ernest Bevin

DURING my stay in England I have discovered a lamentable ignorance among young people of things Australian. There is a great need for a larger understanding between the two lands.
Rev'd H. E. Fawell, Chaplain of H M A S Sydney

THERE can be no marked improvement in the standard of living in Great Britain until she can pay her own way.
Sir Stafford Cripps

Food For Thought

THOSE boys and girls who find it difficult to learn their lessons may one day hear their teachers say, "I think you had better take a glutamic acid pill."

Readers of the C.N. will remember that the monosodium salt of this acid was mentioned a short while ago as a taste tickler.

Among the researches being carried out with this substance is to include it in the diet of rats. It has been found that those rats who have their daily dose of the glutamic acid appear to learn various tricks, such as finding their way out of a maze, far quicker than those who do not.

So perhaps one day diet and not detention will help the dullard to improve.

THE READER

A book has white wings—
You open the pages,
Upon them you float
Into far-away ages.

You conquer new worlds
Because of those wings;
You see mighty pageants
And fabulous things.

When you're sated and tired,
The pinions you fold;
You close up the book,
For the story is told.

Lady Lindsay

A PRAYER

GIVE us sufficient for this life;
food and raiment, the light
of thy countenance, and contented spirits;
and thy grace to seek the kingdom of heaven and the righteousness thereof in the first place, and then we are sure all these things shall be added unto us. Grant the desires and hear the prayer of thy servants for Jesus Christ his sake, our Lord and only saviour.

Jeremy Taylor

JUST AN IDEA

As Lord Acton wrote: History is the final remedy for untruth and the sovereign arbiter of opinion.

BATTLE AGAINST BUNNY

AUSTRALIAN public men are pressing for drastic action to defeat a menace, growing more serious year by year, which would never have arisen if one or more of their well-intentioned ancestors had not acted as they did.

Many years ago rabbits were purposely introduced into Australia so as to provide food and sport for her people. Now they are a general pest, and a serious brake on Australia's rising prosperity.

Rabbits closely crop the best pastures which otherwise would provide food for sheep and cattle. Also, they nibble the green shoots of young corn and gnaw, even destroy, trees. Though very small comparatively, the rabbit is a greedy creature and eats between one-eighth and one-sixth of the amount eaten by a sheep.

At auction sales in New South Wales in 1947-1948, some 40 million rabbit skins were sold. These represent, of course, only the rabbits that were trapped in that State; and the trappers, too, might have been better employed in a country which is already very short of man-power.

Holiday Hotel



In this new Miami hotel the windows have nearly an acre of glass, but are shaded from Florida's brilliant sunshine by the balconies.

HMS NELSON'S HISTORIC TABLE

THE dining table from the wardroom of HMS Nelson is not to be scrapped when that battleship is broken up or sold out of the Service, for it is a table with a history. On it were signed the documents closing two wars. The first was the Armistice with Italy, signed by General Eisenhower and Marshal Badoglio on September 29, 1943; the second, the surrender of Penang and its area by the Japanese two years later.

The table is being transferred to Portsmouth for the personal use of the Commander-in-Chief, Admiral Sir Algernon Willis, who flew his flag in the Nelson for a year from February 1943 as Flag Officer Commanding the famous Force H. This powerful force of warships covered the successful landings at Salerno and was engaged in the operations which led to the capture of Sicily.

When Admiral Willis relinquishes his command at Portsmouth the table will be transferred to HMS Vernon, the Torpedo and Underwater Weapons School at Portsmouth, as an historical trophy.

Famous Father, Famous Son



Lord Randolph Churchill

Just 100 years ago—on February 13, 1849—Lord Randolph Churchill, father of Winston Churchill, was born at Blenheim Palace. Like his famous son he was a brilliant statesman, writer, and speaker, though his career was considerably shorter; moreover his character and achievements showed a remarkable likeness to those of his world-famous son.



Winston Churchill

LORD RANDOLPH CHURCHILL, third son of the seventh Duke of Marlborough, went to a preparatory school at Cheam, in Surrey, and then to Eton, where "there was not a boy in the school who laughed so much or whose laughter was so contagious." Later, too, at Oxford University, he was constantly getting into "scrapes." Working seriously, however, he took an honours degree in history and law, and also developed a striking, picturesque style of writing and speech such as the whole world today admires in his son.

In 1874 Lord Randolph married Jennie Jerome, daughter of a New York business man, and in that same year entered Parliament as Conservative member for Woodstock. He made full use of his excellent command of English and soon distinguished himself as a powerful debater. Though a Conservative, he adopted an independent attitude in politics, so much so that he and his several followers in the House became known as the "Fourth Party."

His speeches, many of them strongly attacking the Prime Minister, Mr Gladstone, attracted a great deal of attention, and it was said that on any platform outside the House he could draw a bigger crowd than any other orator or politician—some 12,000 people in Manchester once gathered to hear him speak on the Irish question.

He is said to have written out his speeches before delivering them, and because of his remarkable memory he was able to learn them by heart after reading them through only twice. He then delivered them as though they were absolutely fresh and spontaneous.

Typical of his forceful and forthright expression was his violent criticism of the Whig

Party: "I can see the viscous, slimy trail of that political reptile which calls itself the Whig Party gleaming and glistening on every line of it. I see the most malignant monster endeavouring, as it did in 1832, to coil itself round the constituencies of England and to suppress the free action and to smother the natural voice of the English people."

When the Liberal Government was defeated in 1885 Lord Randolph received the Indian secretaryship in the new Conservative administration—an office he held for only a few months. In July, 1886 he was appointed Chancellor of the Exchequer and Leader of the House of Commons, but resigned after six months on the grounds that he differed from his colleagues on military and naval expenditure. It was the end of his ministerial career, though he remained in Parliament to the end of his life, which came sadly on January 24, 1895.

Though Lord Randolph's career was brilliant, history has recorded that it was more destructive than constructive. The story of it is told best in his two-volume biography written by his son, one of Winston Churchill's finest literary works.

Ostrich Feathers Again

IN 1914, 755,000 lbs of ostrich feathers were sold by South Africa to European markets, Great Britain and the States being the largest customers. Then came the slump, and in 1945 only 42,000 lbs were sold, mostly to the U.S. Today the trade is livening up, and now in the Oudtshoorn district there are some 40,000 ostriches being "farmed"; efforts are being made to improve the strain of the birds and the quality of the feathers.



THIS ENGLAND

Reflections in the village pond of Aldbury, in Hertfordshire

SAVING THE MASTIFF

THE Old English Mastiff Club are still striving to save from extinction what is probably the oldest breed of dogs in England. It is two years since the CN reported that there were only seven of these huge dogs known to exist in Britain. Since then there have been misfortunes. Out of three litters of puppies, only one survived, and recently the father has died. One of the few surviving grown-up mastiffs is 13½ years old.

However, an eight-month-old puppy arrived here not long ago from Connecticut, and a female has also been brought here from the U.S. Two puppies, one of each sex, are expected from British Columbia, so there is still hope that this fine old English dog will increase in numbers.

The mastiff was already established in England when the Romans came. He is a very large dog, smooth-coated and bluntnosed. He has great courage, and in the old days of cruel sports would readily attack a bear or even a lion. Yet he is gentle and devoted to his master.

Bridger, Sir!

CROSSING bridges to go to school should not make one late; but it is a different matter if the bridges lift or swing away to let ships pass, and these are the sort that still sometimes hold up children on their way to London Dockland's new Redriff school.

When the first school was opened here, nearly 39 years ago, there were no buses going so far into dockland, the Surrey Docks virtually cut off the school from Rotherhithe and Deptford, from which most of the children come, and it was then a regular thing for a latecomer to say—with a cheerful grin—"bridger," meaning he or she had had to wait several times while bridges were shut.

That old school was destroyed during the war, and the new one recently opened, with every modern device, is served by a bus, though there are still some children who can claim a "bridger" when they are late.

Steps to Sporting Fame



All county cricket clubs are now busy making preparations: Warwickshire has elected H. E. (Tom) Dollery as captain.



A native of Reading, Tom was a hard-hitting batsman even as a boy. At 14 he scored a century against an MCC team and a year later, carried his bat for 104 in an innings of 115.



A fine footballer too, he played centre-forward as a youth for Reading's League team and later for West Bromwich Albion. In 1935 he qualified as a Warwickshire cricketer.

Tom Dollery



Last summer, Tom led the county eleven several times and contributed almost half the total runs scored. His election to the regular captaincy has been welcomed by his many admirers.

FIRES WITHOUT SMOKE

THE National Smoke Abatement Society have just told the story of how the great US steel city of Pittsburgh has banished smoke from its sky.

It has been a long fight. First of all, control was gained over industrial smoke; but it was found that the domestic fire was an even greater problem. So measures were taken to control smoke from the domestic grate, and on October 1, 1947, it became illegal for householders to buy any but smokeless fuel. This was said to include coal of low volatile content, anthracite, coal briquettes, and coke. Industrial concerns were allowed to use coal of high volatile content, but they had to install special stoking apparatus in order to burn it smokelessly.

During the following four months of winter Pittsburgh received 39 per cent more of the available sunlight than in the year before, even though industrial smoke had been previously controlled. This great achievement will encourage all who love clear skies and clean air.

Solved by a

Cricket's Chirrup

THE wrist-watch with an alarm has come. The first consignment of about a dozen from a Swiss factory has arrived here.

The invention is regarded as the greatest advance in the industry since wrist-watches were introduced about 50 years ago.

In appearance this new time-piece hardly differs from an ordinary wrist-watch, and the achievement of its inventors has been to incorporate an alarm mechanism and bell into a case of the ordinary size. The problem of the bell proved almost insuperable and it is said that the mechanism finally introduced was suggested to the inventor by the chirruping of crickets on a Swiss mountainside. The mechanism causes a thin diaphragm to be struck rapidly and produce a noise like a small motor.

Young Artists of Old Africa

AFRICAN boys at a mission school in Southern Rhodesia have been showing London, and will soon be showing provincial towns, what they can do with paint brushes and carving tools.

The fine display of their work, seen in London at the Royal Water Colour Society's galleries, is a tribute also to one man's vision. Nine years ago Canon Edward Paterson had an idea that the boys in the school at Cyrene, near Bulawayo, could paint and draw and carve, if they were given the chance, and allowed to develop in ways which are natural to them.

The mission buildings at Cyrene stand 20 miles along the hot dusty road from Bulawayo.

A great house with wide verandas stands alongside squat, white buildings roofed with African thatch, and farm lands, with a cluster of outhouses, stretch beyond the circle of wild fig trees surrounding them. A peep through a window of the great house shows young Africa hard at work with chisel and brush—shaping, designing, creating.

This is no ordinary school. Canon Paterson collected pots and pans, canvas, brushes, wood and chisels, and advertised an opening. day. Four students arrived at dawn with blankets and boots over their shoulders. Ninety more turned up during the next three days.

Few of the boys had held a

pencil before. They knew nothing of European art or cultural traditions, and their teacher did not want them to learn. His idea was solely to put a brush and pencil in their hands and let them work out their own ideas.

Although pictorial art is sometimes found in Southern Rhodesia in bushman paintings, there is really no native tradition of painting and carving. The Bantu boys of Cyrene are pioneers. Many of them do not paint much differently from boys and girls of their own age in Britain; but in the designs of many of the pictures there are glimpses of the real Africa, and they suggest that even more wonderful things are to come.

NOW HISTORY CAN BE HEARD

WE can photograph history in the making, film it, paint it, and describe it in print. We can also listen to it. That same thought struck the famous American radio commentator Edward R. Murrow during the war, and the results can now be heard in a talking book published on Columbia records in America under the title "I can hear it now."

It was on D-Day, says Mr Murrow, that he got the idea. From the BBC building in London he had just announced to the American soldiers preparing to land in France that the hour of attack had come. "Funny!" he said to a friend. "In the old days they used to write history; these days we're talking history."

In this talking book there is the

voice of President Roosevelt telling his people that the only thing to fear is fear itself. Later comes his announcement of Pearl Harbour, and other famous Roosevelt speeches. There is the abdication speech of the Duke of Windsor, and one of the few recorded examples of Stalin speaking, and, of course, there are the most famous words of Mr Churchill.

ROB ROY—Sir Walter Scott's Romantic Story of an Outlaw, Told in Pictures

Frank Osbaldistone was amazed when Diana Vernon told him he was accused of robbing the Government messenger, Morris, with whom he had travelled part of the way from London to his uncle's house, Osbaldistone

Hall. Diana wanted to help Frank, for she liked him, although she was a Roman Catholic and a Jacobite, and he was a Dissenter and a supporter of George I. She advised him now to take refuge in Scotland, but he

declared that he would go straight to the local magistrate and answer this preposterous charge of highway robbery. Diana led him to the house of the magistrate, Squire Inglewood, not far from Osbaldistone Hall.



In the entrance hall Frank was surprised to find his sinister cousin, Rashleigh. "You should have gone to Scotland," said Rashleigh, "until this matter was smoothed over in a quiet way." Frank replied that he refused to run away from a false accusation. Then, to his greater surprise, Diana led Rashleigh aside and they talked in low tones. Diana exclaimed, "I will have it so," and Rashleigh left the house.



Di took Frank to Squire Inglewood's room. There Morris was sitting with the magistrate, an easy-going old gentleman, and the clerk. Squire Inglewood said that Morris had been stopped by two masked highwaymen and robbed of his case containing Government money. Morris, said the Squire, declared that one of the robbers was like Frank, and he heard one of them call the other Osbaldistone.



Things were looking black for Frank when "Mr Campbell" was announced and Rob Roy entered. Morris seemed terrified. Rob explained that he was with Morris at the time he was robbed. "I caught a glimpse of the robbers when their masks slipped," he said, "and neither of them was Mr Osbaldistone." Strangely, Morris agreed with this, and the magistrate threw the accusation into the fire.



Mystified, Frank asked Rashleigh, next morning at Osbaldistone Hall, to explain matters, but the other made evasive answers. Then Rashleigh spoke of Frank's father, in whose business he was to take Frank's place. "He honours the king as a sort of lord mayor of the Empire," he sneered. Rashleigh was a scheming Jacobite, and Frank wondered, uneasily, how his own father, a staunch Whig, would fare with him.

How Will Mysterious Rashleigh's Plots Affect Frank's Fortunes? See Next Week's Instalment of This Great Story

A New Era in China?

The negotiations for peace between the Nationalist Government and the Communists have thrown into the limelight two of the leaders of the victorious revolutionary party. Here is a brief account of those remarkable men, Mao Tse-tung and Chu Teh.

MAO TSE-TUNG and Chu Teh are now the dominant leaders over millions of China's people, and their rise to power is one of the most remarkable episodes in the long history of China.

Both men were once in the service of the Chiang Kai-shek government now negotiating with them for a truce in the civil war. Mao Tse-tung is the thinker and planner of the Communists, and Chu Teh the soldier. Together they make a powerful combination.

Mao Tse-tung draws much of his inspiration from the teachings of Sun Yat Sen, the father of modern China. He has a profound belief in the Chinese peasants, "our all" as he describes them. He sees the new China as a land in which the oppressed peasant can have more land to till and a greater share in the wealth of China. "The land must belong to the tiller," he says, and that teaching naturally finds much acceptance among the people.

With the high cheek-bones of the Mongol, and a pair of eyes unlike the usual slit eyes of the Chinese, Mao Tse-tung has been living in some of the most remote areas of North China since

1933. He had been forced out of his stronghold in the south by Chiang Kai-shek, and then, with Chu Teh, organised one of the most spectacular marches in history—across six thousand miles of China to the distant capital of Yenan in the north-



Chu Teh



Mao Tse-tung

west, which became the capital of Communist China.

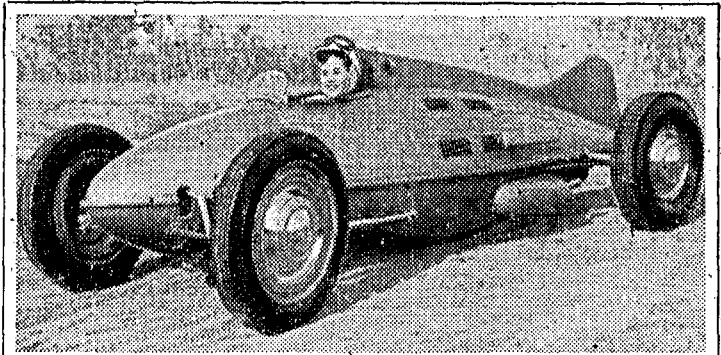
Mao Tse-tung does not like the big cities. A countryman, he believes that the future of his country lies in a reformed and renewed countryside. What he will do is he gains control of the biggest cities of China may be a guide to the future "set-up" in a land like China, where the unpredictable is always likely to happen.

Mao Tse-tung knows, too, that much of the Communist success

is due to Chu Teh, the remarkable general of the Communist armies. Chu Teh is a regular soldier who served under Chiang Kai-shek, and then became a civil servant. In this service he amassed a huge fortune like many other Chinese state officials, and then he suddenly changed his way of life. He was forty years old.

He sold his possessions and went off to Europe to study what was really happening in the world. He turned against his easy life and began to look at the world's problems from the point of view of the poor and down-trodden. In Paris he met Communism, and later went to Moscow, to re-emerge a trained missionary of the new faith. A short, stocky man, asking nothing of his men that he will not do himself, his manner is said to be simple and friendly. He lives on the same rations as the common soldier and mixes with them on equal terms when off duty.

It is believed that Chu Teh will be one of the moderating influences in the China which the Communists now control. He does not relish fighting against his own countrymen and would



New Role for a Tank

This is a picture of a tank, but not one of the kind that soldiers call an armoured fighting vehicle. Built by an American, the body of this speedy little car was once the petrol tank of a warplane.

welcome a compromise that would put an end to fighting. In the opinion of many students of that country, both Chu Teh and Mao Tse-tung want to see a China in which the old feudalisms which brought such frequent starvation and famine for the Chinese peasant are rooted out.

How far these two men will be able to control, or will be allowed to control, the new forces now let loose in China is for history to answer.

WOODY TWO SHOES

THE reason why women had to give up high-heeled shoes during the war was shortage of wood. A wartime timber control officer has revealed that it took a million cubic feet of beechwood a year to make high heels—so they had to go.

THUNDERSTORMS AS A HOBBY

"Do you collect stamps?" "No, thunderstorms."

We should be a trifle startled to hear that said, but it might very well be. For this is the silver jubilee year of the Thunderstorms Census Organisation whose members, scattered over the country, watch thunderstorms and send in reports.

A few weeks ago the CN wrote of a new group of scientists who have also become thunderstorm watchers and have established four stations in Britain for recording them by a kind of wireless receiving apparatus.

These scientists, however, will by no means entirely take the place of the older organisation, which will continue to observe and report the queer ways of thunderstorms.

The organisation has published maps showing the hourly movement of thunderstorms across the country. Average distribution maps have been prepared for certain areas, and daily maps of overhead thunderstorms have been drawn during the annual surveys since 1925. The results are published in British Thunderstorms. These publications are of value to electrical authorities, fire-loss assessors, insurance companies, and others.

The organisation is anxious to enrol new observers; its address is: Langley Terrace, Huddersfield.

Time Was—and Is

BRITAIN is expected to produce clocks at the rate of six million a year by the end of 1949, said Mr D. W. Barrett, Chairman of the British Clock Manufacturers' Industrial and Export Group. He was speaking at the pre-view of the film, *Once Upon a Time*, which illustrates this British industry.

This country was once the world's greatest producer of clocks and watches, but the industry declined owing to foreign competition.

Before the war Britain imported, in only the first ten months of 1938, the enormous quantity of 6,700,000 complete watches and movements. Last year these imports had dropped to less than 1,500,000. In 1938 we imported about five million clocks; now we are providing nearly all our own clocks and exporting clocks as well. Before the war we made hardly any watches at all; in ten months last year we turned out 570,000. In 1939 only 4000 people were employed in the industry; today there are 35,000.

The CN National Handwriting Test

Write a Message to H R H Prince Charles

THE news of this great National Test, first announced generally in last week's C N, has aroused widespread interest, and girls and boys all over the country are showing eagerness to take part.

The Test has the special attraction that the words to be written form a Message of Good Will from British children to the infant Prince Charles of Edinburgh. It has been organised by CHILDREN'S NEWSPAPER as an encouragement to better writing among schoolchildren, and schools and teachers are cordially invited to co-operate.

The competition is for all full-time pupils of schools and colleges in Great Britain, Northern Ireland, and the Channel Islands who are under 17 years of age, and Entry Forms are being issued only through schools.

There is NO entry fee. Each entrant has simply to copy the Message—which is given on the Entry Form—in the style of handwriting taught in his or her school. Prizes totalling over £500 in value will be awarded for the best entries submitted.

To give every entrant an equal opportunity, the test is divided into THREE AGE CLASSES with prizes in each for both pupils and schools—so that you can win for yourself and for your school! In addition, there will be One Thousand Consolation Prizes which winners will be able to choose themselves. The full prize list is shown on the left.

If you would like to win a prize for yourself as well as one for your school, please note that entries in this competition must be made on the proper Entry Form which is issued free through schools. This announcement should therefore be shown to your teacher with the request to him or her kindly to complete the coupon below (unless the school has already applied) and send it to CN.

All applications should give the school's full name and address, to which the Forms will be sent. The Test may be done in school or at home, as

the teacher may decide, and the entry is to be signed by the teacher on completion. When sent in every entry must have affixed to it one of the tokens (marked "£500 Writing Test") now appearing at the foot of the back page.

Remember, there is a special age group for you. Also you can practise writing the Test Passage on plain paper before completing your final effort.

Get ready then to do your best in this very special test for young writers!

A NOTE TO TEACHERS. The Entry Form contains the Message which is the Test Passage, space for the pupil's effort, and full rules and particulars. It is for issue only in answer to school application. Teachers are asked to be good enough to assess their requirements as closely as possible, and fill in the total of Forms needed on this coupon. The supply will then be sent post free, to be handed out at school. Last date for form application, February 28. (A 1d stamp only is required if the envelope is sent unsealed.)

this coupon and send it to the CN

THE PRIZE LIST

Group A (For pupils under 8)

FIRST PRIZES
To the School £25
To the Pupil £5

SECOND PRIZES
To the School £10
To the Pupil £3

THIRD PRIZES
To the School £5
To the Pupil £2

Group B (Pupils 8 to under 11)

FIRST PRIZES
To the School £25
To the Pupil £5

SECOND PRIZES
To the School £10
To the Pupil £3

THIRD PRIZES
To the School £5
To the Pupil £2

Group C (Pupils 11 to under 17)

FIRST PRIZES
To the School £25
To the Pupil £5

SECOND PRIZES
To the School £10
To the Pupil £3

THIRD PRIZES
To the School £5
To the Pupil £2

1000 OTHER PRIZES

will also be awarded, their winners to have choice of prize from a given list.

N.B.—The Closing Date of the CN National Test is Thursday, March 31. The full rules and sending-in directions are printed on the Entry Form.

(It is regretted that this competition cannot be extended to schools outside Great Britain, N Ireland and the Channel Is.) Please ask your teacher to fill in

To the Editor, CHILDREN'S NEWSPAPER,
Room 171, The Fleetway House, London, EC 4 (Comp).

Please send me (post free)..... copies of the CN National Handwriting Test Entry Forms for my pupils.

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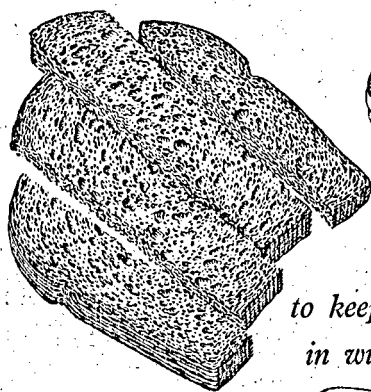
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Any Old Iron? WEALTH FROM THE SCRAP HEAP

A DRAMATIC story of good planning and endeavour lies behind the Government statement that British steel output for 1948 is a record. When the Government set the target at 14,500,000 tons our steelmen rolled up their sleeves and produced 15 million tons, and this figure will be exceeded when final returns are made.

Furnacemen, smelters, labourers, technicians, even the lads who carry drinking-water to the men tending the blazing furnaces, knew that the world was hungry for steel. They knew that Britain needed steel for ships, buildings, tools, machinery, and so on.

Scottish steel-melting shops worked seven days a week, but pig iron for steel-making was scarce. From overseas came 8,600,000 tons of iron ore, but it was not enough, so a search began for scrap.

Mulberry Harbours

Sunken ships were salvaged and cut down. Old ships went to the breakers' yards. Block ships, aground on the far North of Scotland seaboard, were burned down where they lay. Mulberry harbours are still being reduced to scrap, and sunken vessels in Maltese and North African waters have been surveyed for salvaging.

A scrap-retrieving committee was formed, and its members collected rusty ploughs and disused gear from farms and old-iron bedsteads from hawkers. Scrap was collected from shipyards and workshops all over the country, even the wafer-thin cuttings left behind when holes are bored in steel plates were transported to the melters. About 162,000 tons of scrap was made into steel ingots every week. From Scottish shipbreakers alone came 550,000 tons last year, more than two-thirds of the British output.

The melting of scrap is the speediest and cheapest method of producing steel ingots, and part of the ten million tons of scrap lying in Germany will be treated in British furnaces.

So great is the world demand for iron ore for steel-making that the ballast tanks of ships carrying Marshall Aid cargoes to Western Europe will be emptied of water. Iron ore will replace the water as ballast.

Oldest British Book

PROFESSOR ALEXANDER SOUTER, the world-famous Latin scholar who has passed on at the age of 76, will chiefly be remembered as the man who, in 1906, at Karlsruhe in Germany, discovered the Latin commentary of Pelagius on the Epistles of St Paul. This manuscript, which had been lost for a thousand years, has been proved to be the oldest surviving book by a British author.

Pelagius, a British monk, was born probably about the middle of the fourth century A.D. A devout and earnest man, of whom St Augustine spoke with great respect, he went to Rome. There he wrote his commentaries. When Rome was sacked by the Goths in 410 he withdrew to Africa and later went on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, where he met St Jerome.

CN Bookshelf

Verse and Story

Twice Ten, by M. St John Webb (University of London Press, 6s 6d).

Mrs ST JOHN WEBB had an inherited talent for writing, and this reprint of a selection of her verse and stories for the younger children is more than welcome. Throughout her all-too-short life she radiated happiness; and, as her sister writes in a delightful foreword to this book, such happiness "runs like a golden thread through all her work."

In the Bush

The Lost Hole of Bingoola, by L. and K. Harris (Gifford, 5s).

THIS is an exciting story about two Australian boys, "good-fellers both." One is a white boy, 15-year-old son of a cattle-station owner; the other, whose life he saves, is Bindu, an Aboriginal who can throw a boomerang so that it returns to him every time. A kangaroo hunt, a stampede of cattle, and a search for a water hole—all have their place in their stirring adventures.

Hamlet's Children

The Siege of Elsinore, by J. C. Fennessy (Sidgwick & Jackson, 6s).

IN this entertaining story for boys and girls of eight and upwards the author has let fancy play with the theme that Hamlet and Ophelia had married and had had three children. The story tells of the children's adventuring afar off and meetings with many characters from other Shakespeare plays, of magic, and of their return to Denmark to raise the Siege of Elsinore.

Woodland Airlift

The Wizard of the Wood, by Elleston Trevor (Falcon Press, 6s).

A host of children and the young-in-heart will meet some familiar friends in this book. The march of science has now reached the Woodland, for Grey Squirrel proves to be a back-room boss who invents a flying machine which leads to some remarkable adventures. The illustrations are as enchanting as the story.

In the Wilds

Nic the Rabbit, by Jane Thorncroft (Pen-in-Hand, 5s).

NIC is not one of those rabbits which is dressed up and capers around like a human being. He is a real rabbit, living in the countryside, meeting all the other little wild folk, both friends and enemies. There are several excellent illustrations by Ernest Aris.

Other Books Received

The Mystery of Ambleways, by Trevor Henley (Venturebooks, 6s 6d).

Jinnifer of London, by Barbara Nixon (Gullford Press, 7s 6d).

Houses, Furniture, Pottery—three titles in The Things We See series (Penguin Books, 2s 6d).

If You Could See Inside, by Marie Neurath; a colour book for young children (Max Parrish, 6s).

Modern Gift Book For Children (Odams, 8s 6d).

Looking and Listening, an Introduction to Musical Appreciation, by Wyndham G. Williams (John Murray, 2s 3d and 3s 6d).

SCOUTS' STAMP FREE

ABSOLUTELY FREE. This very lovely little stamp, as illustrated, was issued by AUSTRALIA to commemorate the International Boy Scouts' Jamboree, at Yarra Brae, Wonga Park, Victoria, Australia. We will willingly send YOU one ABSOLUTELY FREE, it will enormously add to the interest of YOUR COLLECTION.



It depicts a Uniformed Scout, and was on sale in Australia for a very short time only—from November 15th, 1948, to January 9th, 1949. We have purchased a small supply, and whilst this supply lasts offer one Absolutely Free to each Approval applicant.

To get YOUR stamp, just write and ask for this wonderful Free Scout Stamp, and also ask for our Price List and a selection of our Stamps On Approval (no obligation to purchase any). You must send us 3d. stamps to cover our postage. Write Now.

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BOY SCOUT STAMP

Ten thousand Boy Scouts met in Australia last year for the Pan-Pacific Scout Jamboree. To mark this event a special 21d. stamp was issued in Australia. You can get this new stamp **Absolutely Free** if you ask to see my stamp books. (Send 21d. for postage).

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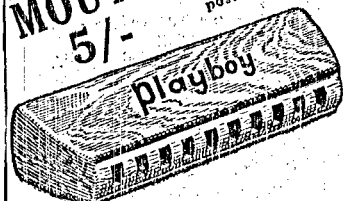
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THE London Zoo has finished
its yearly valuation of all
the creatures that dwell within
its boundaries. Their total is
6337 animals, birds, reptiles, and
fishes.

It is well that Zoo residents
do not know their own values or
some of them would become in-
sufferably conceited. A black
rhinoceros, for instance, is worth
£2000, and so is a hippopotamus.
A king penguin—which already
gives itself airs enough—is worth
£200, a cut above the commoner,
black-footed penguin, worth only
£75.

Far below these aristocratic
creatures are the humble frogs
and toads, worth threepence
each, while white mice are only
worth 1s 6d each, and the cheer-
ful but common little guinea pigs
are not much more select at
5s 6d apiece.

Contrasted with this small fry
are the lordly elephants, giraffes,
and a gorilla, valued at £1500
each, but the proudest of all the
Zoo's boarders, could he know his
value, would be the okapi, the
property of the King. He is such
a rare animal as to be virtually
priceless.

Altogether, the Zoo's collection
of living things is assessed at
£87,715.

Far From Extinct

MEMBERS of a scientific expedi-
tion to Lake Te Anau, in the
little-known south-west corner of
New Zealand, have observed at
least 100 birds of the notornis or
takahe, previously thought to be
extinct. As already reported, a
few of these birds were seen in
November for the first time in 50
years. As a result the New Zea-
land Government has proclaimed
400,000 acres of uninhabited
country as a bird sanctuary.

BEDTIME CORNER

Lambs' Tails

Pip and Christine, who
lived in the town, had
looked forward to staying in
the country with their Auntie.
But when they arrived and
realised that now the hedges
and trees were bare, and all
the flowers gone, they thought
it looked too dull for words.

So when, after dinner,
Auntie said: "Shall we go for
a walk?" they both would
much rather have stayed in by
the fire and played with the
kittens. However, being polite
children, they said: "Yes,
please."

"We'll go on an expedition
to look for lambs' tails," said
Auntie as they set off through
the wood. "A penny for the
one who finds some first."

Now Pip had seen
pictures of lambs'
tails in his Nature
book, and knew they
were the long, green
catkins growing on
hazel-nut bushes. So,
of course, he was the
first to find a hazel
bush with catkins
dancing and wag-
gling in the breeze.
And he got the penny.

Soon afterwards they went
out of the wood into a field,
and Auntie said: "This is the
second half of the expedition.
See who is first this time."

Boys' Brigade

Advance

YEAR OF PROGRESS

ONE of the most important of
our youth services, The Boys'
Brigade, is gaining in strength.
Its Annual Report shows that
during last year 5011 boys joined,
bringing the total strength in the
British Isles to 90,422. There was
an even greater increase, 5413, in
the strength of the Life Boys, lads
of 9 to 13 years, who are the
junior reserve of the Brigade.

Last year the Brigade had
2086 football clubs, 1302 cricket
clubs, 1356 swimming clubs,
1586 first aid classes, and 1004
signalling classes.

The Boys' Brigade is also mak-
ing progress in the Dominions
and Colonies, where there are
over 400 Companies with 14,000
boys.

"Gifts to others" is an im-
portant aspect of the Brigade's
work, and in Britain last year
they contributed £7851 to mis-
sionary work, as well as £11,016
to other charitable objects. In
addition, the Life Boys raised
£5555 for medical missions.

ISLAND MACES

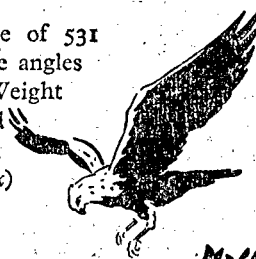
Two West Indian islands, St
Lucia and St Vincent, have
recently received from the Crown
Jewellers in London maces
specially made for their legisla-
tures. These two maces—symbols
of authority in true British par-
liamentary tradition—will com-
plete their first full calendar
year "in office" in 1949. Both are
beautiful examples of the English
goldsmith's and silversmith's art,
made entirely by hand.

Made to a similar pattern as
the mace in the House of
Commons, they are each five feet
long, fifteen inches longer than
the Commons mace and easier to
carry. On the head of each mace
are engraved the public seals of
the two colonies.

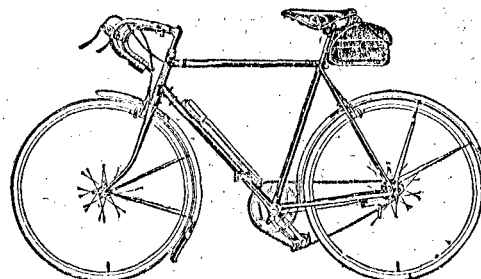
Kestrel Kestrel Kestrel

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**Tommy
Lawton**

SAYS



"Here's how I cross roads..."

"Fancy foot-work scores on the
football-field, where you want to
confuse the other side's halves and
backs. But on the road, confusion is
the last thing you want—it's much
too dangerous. Head-work is the
thing, when you're crossing a street.
Here's how I do it:

- 1 At the kerb—HALT.
- 2 Eyes—RIGHT.
- 3 Eyes—LEFT.
- 4 Glance again—RIGHT.
- 5 If all clear—QUICK MARCH.

Quite calm, no running and dodging,
because I wait for a proper gap in the
traffic first.

"If you misjudge things in Soccer
—well, you're very seldom hurt,
anyway. But if you take chances in
traffic, and a car or lorry charges
you, you may be killed. And the
same accident may kill other people.
So watch your step, be a good Road
Navigator, and cross all streets the
Kerb Drill way."

Tommy Lawton

Jacko's Rescue Service



AFTER a week of intensive rain Jacko awoke one morning to find the house surrounded by water. Jacko, of course, thought it a fine thing but Mother Jacko thought differently. "The hen-house has just drifted away," she said in dismay. "I'll soon fix that," chortled Jacko, and getting out his boat he set off in pursuit. He quickly caught up with the drifting fowls and, amid much cackling, they were transferred to his boat. In fact, the din was so great that long before they reached home the Jacko household was aware of Master Jacko's homecoming.

PLAY UP

It was the first time that little Betty had been to a restaurant where there was an orchestra.

"What does the man with the stick keep looking at in his book?" she asked.

"Oh, he is the conductor," replied Daddy. "He's looking at the music score."

"Who's winning, Daddy?"

Other Worlds

IN the evening Uranus is in the south and Saturn is in the south-east. In the morning Venus is very low in the south-east and Jupiter is in the south-east. The picture shows the Moon at 8 o'clock on Saturday morning, February 19.

POOR PERCY

ONE day Poor Percy saw a man performing rope tricks with élan; The way they clapped and cheered the show Determined Percy to have a go. So home he went, got out a rope, And twirled and twisted with much hope... They found him there some time next morn, Neatly trussed like new-reaped

What Am I?

I'm careless, and I'm made to light.

Behold me, and I'm swallowed whole.

Behold again, and I'm not right—A bed, maybe, must be my goal.

Answer next week

PEACE

THE new vicar was making his first call in a dock-side neighbourhood.

"This is a very noisy district, Mrs. Smith," he said.

"Yes, vicar, it is," agreed Mrs. Smith. "In fact, the only time we get any peace is when the ship sirens drown the noise."

FARMER GRAY EXPLAINS

The Hare Sits Tight. "Look!" whispered Ann. "There's an enormous rabbit hiding in that clump of grass."

"It's a hare," replied her brother Don. "Shall we try to catch it?"

"No; we might frighten it," said kind-hearted Ann.

"I think Puss, as hares are sometimes called, would have evaded capture," chuckled Farmer Gray, when told of the hare. "During the early part of the day hares will often sit tight in their forms, until almost trodden on. Towards evening they are livelier and much more difficult to approach. Hares usually have two forms; one for wet weather and one for fine."

The BRAN TUB

Tree Stump Compass

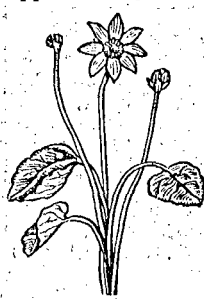
WHEN you find a tree that has been sawn down you can discover the points of the compass by examining the rings of growth. You will notice that these are much wider on one side than the other, and this side, where the rings are widest, faces south.

The stem of the tree facing this way naturally receives more sunshine and this induces the rings of growth to develop more fully than where the tree is shaded.

COUNTRYSIDE FLOWERS

Lesser Celandine

UNDER the hedgerows during February or early March appear the golden starry flowers of the Lesser Celandine.



They are about an inch across and consist of eight or nine petals.

The shining green leaves are heart-shaped, and their edges are

often slightly wavy.

Celandine takes its name from the Latin "chelidonium," meaning the swallow.

The Lesser Celandine is in no way related to the Greater Celandine.

Children's Hour

BBC Programmes from Wednesday, February 9, to Tuesday, February 15.

WEDNESDAY, 5.0 Cruise of the Toytown Belle (2). 5.30 Children's Country Dance Party. North, 5.0 Poems, Stories, and Music by young listeners; Film News. Welsh, 5.0 The Importance Clock—a story; Choir of the Neath Grammar School for Girls.

THURSDAY, 5.0 Stories from the Arabian Nights. Midland, 5.0 Catch that Spider! (6); In Humorous Mood. Scottish, 5.0 The Record-Breakers (Part 2). Welsh, 5.30 Outward Bound Sea School—Aberdovey, Merionethshire.

FRIDAY, 5.0 From a Glasgow Slum to Fleet Street (No 1). 5.15 High Barbary (Part 1). N. Ireland, 5.0 Adventures in France—a talk; Heir to Dun-an-Oir—a serial play; Eddie Pearl's Ensemble. North, 5.0 The Flying Farmer—Further adventures of the Plover Patrol (Part 1).

SATURDAY, 5.0 Variety, including Young Artists, Request Corner, Forfeits, Jack-of-all-trades, and Guest Artists. North, 5.0 Variety. West, 5.0 The Adventures of Clara Chuff (6); Young Artists: Songs at the Piano and Piano solos; Percy the Seagull—a story.

SUNDAY, 5.0 A Walk Over Ilkley Moor. Midland, 5.0 Which Witch?—a fantasy; The King of Griffins' Glen—a story.

MONDAY, 5.0 Bitty and the Bears (7). 5.15 Songs and Piano. 5.40 Eric Gillett's Film Review. North, 5.0 Young Artists; a Story.

TUESDAY, 5.0 The Chinese Children Next Door; Gramophone. 5.40 World Affairs. North, 5.0 Prize Winning Competition Entries.

Cross Word Puzzle

Reading Across. 1 Precious stone. 4 Where the Sun sets. 8 A vein of metal ore. 10 Territorial Army. 11 All the copies of a book issued at the same time. 13 Flesh-eating bird of Crow family. 15 Word expressing denial. 16 Famous London cricket ground. 17 Story of heroic achievement. 18 Obtained. 19 Part of a door. 20 A salt in vinegar. 22 Note in tonic solfa scale. 23 Indigo. 24 Famous public school. 25 New York State.

Reading Down. 2 To raise. 3 A type to be copied. 4 Saturated. 5 A foil for a funny man. 6 Rare metal used for lamp filaments. 7 To detract. 9 Noise. 12 In a senseless manner. 14 Wading bird allied to the snipe. 17 Silk fabric with glossy surface. 19 Shallow domestic vessel. 21 Sunburn. Asterisks indicate abbreviations.

Answer next week

The Gossips

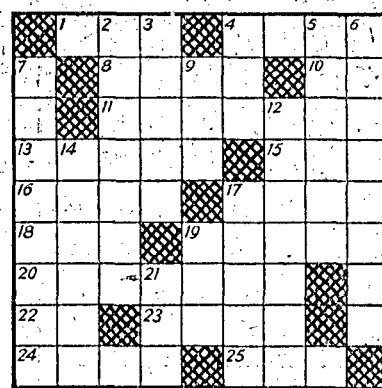
BLACK: We can't believe all we hear.

WHITE: No; but some people can repeat it.

Pithy Proverb

A FRIEND is not so soon gotten as lost.

LAST WEEK'S ANSWER
Who Is He? A postman.



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